

Reverse Engineering a Citation

In the second week of class, each of you will receive a different reference citation, which you will be responsible for acquiring from the **Fondren library stacks**, scanning, and uploading to Canvas.⁴

The planning stages:

1. Refer to this webpage explaining the anatomy of a citation first: <https://libraryguides.missouri.edu/c.php?g=38937&p=247223>.
2. You will be responsible for logging onto the Fondren library website and searching databases and library catalogues to find the work you have been assigned.⁵
3. If you have difficulty finding your citation, start asking questions! One of the reference librarians on the first floor of Fondren will assist you in your search.
4. As you search for your title, take notes on what works for you and what does not. What confuses you about the databases or catalogues? If you encounter a problem, how do you work around it? What databases or other library resources did you use? Did you physically visit the library? Why or why not?

Reflection and Peer Response:

1. **Write** a 150-/200-word response detailing how you found your item and explaining any difficulties you came across. If you did not have any difficulties, explain why.
2. **List** (using bullets or numbers) the process you used to find your source and explain each step with one detailed sentence.
3. **Upload to canvas discussion board** by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 15.
4. Using the Canvas Discussions tool, **write** about your experience with this project. At times, research can be challenging.
5. In this online discussion, you will be asked to give a summary of your experience, and your classmates will **read and respond** to your work, and you will do the same for your classmates. If your item was particularly difficult to locate, describe the steps you needed to take with screen captures and step-by-step instructions (this is heavily encouraged!).
6. **Respond** to **at least 3** of your classmates' posts. You may find that your item was more difficult to locate than your peer's. Use this as your opportunity to express your frustrations and explain what did or did not work for you.

NOTE: If another user has your source checked out, go to the reference desk and ask about how to use Interlibrary Loan. Do NOT recall the item because you likely will not receive your item in time, and ILL is a major resource for in-depth research that will come in handy as you continue to research for upper-division courses.

⁴ These citations will become part of an archive students can access for their first medium-length paper and beyond. This iterative assignment is designed to teach students how to find materials in the library, how ILL works, and approximately how long it takes to receive materials. The online discussion component is designed to get students talking to each other about their experiences, thereby “crowdsourcing” methods and approaches to research projects.

⁵ I will demonstrate in class how to do this using the computer and projector.